

ist. A missionary gentle-
thoroughly well acquainted
at information that provided
assistance of the local man-
the people are not like-
position; but he lays much
a necessity of conciliating
ness. He is inclined to
formidable obstacle will
the physical aspects of the
the hostility of the people
that their superiors
influence them in favor of
that the expense of
aphic posts across the lofty
Sanon hills will be so
vent any profit being de-
undertaking for very many
ear that in spite of the ex-
feasible plan is to commence
have before suggested—
to submarine wire between
Shanghai. The Chinese
ends of the route would
and importance, Canton
light within 60 hours—the
passage to Hongkong—of
in this would be an immense
s of the native officials and
would possess the additional
of costing them nothing
of the scheme, "I cannot be
but a somewhat free trans-
all known Chinese phrase
officials are particularly fond
pressed to take trouble.

NEW ORDINANCES.

Sir Richard MacDonnell to
petitioners respecting the new
it probably have a benefi-
in the minds of the Chinese
to believe that they will
more under their provisions
le or even possible. While
advising the general tone
ency's Memorandum, we re-
to find that he has afforded
as to the intentions of the
inspecting those small vessels
the habit of leaving and en-
four once or twice daily,
n, which our both com-
have also pointed out in
of this morning. Like our
we cannot imagine it to be
of His Excellency to put
to the petty traffic upon
all, more or less, dependant
market supplies, though we
daily Press in its assump-
shipment being caused either
of the fact of the masters
slaving to report themselves
r Masters office. The only
is the time of giving
departure, and it would seem
wise, to extend to them the
which are extended to steam-
leaving Consular ports. At
sailing vessel is under ordi-
nances required to report her
sailing at least 24 hours be-
this rule is relaxed in
vessels the masters of which
giving notice of their in-
again immediately. Some
might be adopted with re-
small vessels to which we
n "which the enforcement of
ts" rule would in effect ac-
tion of the means of liveli-

for a moment believe that
re is anticipated by the Gov-
it would be well to quiet
visions of the Chinese on this
y seem disposed to bring
ons forward in a quiet and
and indulge in no rhodo-
at the "frightful results" of
slation. They simply point
case—not the hardship which
tailed by a compliance with
in the case of provision boats
olupte impossibility of a vessel
giving 18 hours notice of
the last paragraph but one of
y's reply induces the belief that
ds to make allowance for cases
but he has not said so specifi-
there is great likelihood of
iding taking place, amongst
as the honest portion of
trading community.

respects there is little that can
in His Excellency's memo-
islation such as this under
s doubtless exceptional, but
on the government by the
selves, and until we can suc-
ceding them that to conceal a
of crime on the part of others,
criminals, or to refuse assist-
w when required by lawful au-
themselves, criminal acts,
extraordinary legislation be-
grapple with the evils which
allowed solong to flourish un-

SAIGON.
A GENTLEMAN, recently from Saigon, has
been kind enough to favour us with the
following particulars regarding that port:
Saigon is an uncommonly hot, and not
over healthy place. Fever, dysentery,
and liver complaints prevail there to a
considerable extent, and cases of sun-
stroke are of frequent occurrence. The
population amounts in round numbers to
probably 30,000, of whom, of course, the
majority are natives, most of them Roman
Catholics. The Chinese are very nume-
rous too, but they are as a rule from dis-
tricts to the north of Hongkong, or else
from the Straits settlements, comparatively
few from this, Canton or Macao. Includ-
ing the French troops there may be about
10,000 Europeans, which number varies
according to arrival or departure of French
regiments, forming the garrison. Trade
and commerce are for the present to a
large extent in the hands of the Chinese,
owing to their long intercourse and inter-
marriages with the natives. The latter
themselves are lazy and indolent to excess,
and not to be compared with the active
and intelligent Chinese—who invariably
are the go between in transactions of na-
tives and Europeans. This accounts for
the fact of the Celestials having by de-
grees monopolized as it were the entire
commerce of Cochinchina. It is doubt-
less difficult in these countries under any
circumstances to compete with Chinese
in trade, but where, as in Saigon, there
is a purely military, instead of a civil
Government, it is not likely that such at-
tention as would facilitate matters to a
certain extent for European Colonists en-
gaged in commerce, will be bestowed upon
the question. The Chinese, therefore,
having to a certain extent the advantage
over Europeans, go ahead and make money,
while the latter, hampered by heavier
expenses and not acquainted with the
language, meet with more obstacles in their
endeavours to acquire an independence.
Add to this the purely military spirit to
which we have before alluded, and it cannot
be surprising that commercial results in
Saigon have thus far not resulted so fa-
vourably for Europeans as has probably
been the case for Chinamen. It is devout-
ly to be hoped that when France has done
with her conquests in Cochinchina, a civil
Government, instead of a military one
will be established there, and that the
state of things existing will be abandoned,
a Colony proclaimed, and Consuls of for-
eign nations admitted, after which Saigon
will doubtless prosper.

The country around is fertile and rich
in every respect. Cotton, sugar, rice,
tobacco, indigo, and a variety of other
articles, might be produced in very much
larger quantities than is the case now, and
with the requisite capital that would then
find its way to that port, trade would
be properly developed.

Sociability there is scarcely any at present,
as the French military have little or
no intercourse at all with the merchants
and traders, and among the latter the dif-
ferent nationalities are unfortunately a
preventive to any nearer approach.

THE CHINESE AND THE ORDINANCES.

THE Chinese merchants, traders, and les-
sees of land residing in this Colony, have
just presented to His Excellency a respec-
tful petition, stating "what appears to
them to be the views entertained by all
the peaceable and well-disposed por-
tion of the local Chinese population on the
recent highly important enactments which
His Excellency in his wisdom has deemed
it expedient to put in force." The peti-
tion extends to such length that we find it
impossible from want of room to repro-
duce it verbatim this evening. The fol-
lowing abstract of it however, taken in
connection with the reply of His Excel-
lency the Governor, will give a clear idea
of the views set forth by the memorialists.

The petition commences by stating that
the petitioners being so much struck with
the unanswerable reasoning contained in
His Excellency's reply to the petition pre-
sented by them on the 5th of September
last, have considered it their duty to make
further enquiries as to the contents of the
Ordinances lately passed by the Govern-
ment, and they are bound to admit to His
Excellency that that petition was drawn
up under a misapprehension of the mean-
ing and intent of the Ordinances, arising
from imperfect interpretation and the in-
complete version of them which appeared
in one of the local Chinese newspapers.

Stating that they have sought the aid
of a gentleman thoroughly acquainted with
the colloquial to explain the obscure
sections of the Ordinances, the text con-
tinues:

"Your petitioners are now free to admit,
that, with some few exceptions which your
petitioners will presently take the liberty
to bring under Your Excellency's notice,
that so far from the Ordinances being as
your petitioners previously stated, "ob-
structive and inconvenient," they are fully
satisfied, that, if properly and judiciously
carried out, the Colony must be benefited
by them, and the position of Chinese resi-
dents rendered safer and healthier."

Of the "exceptions" to which the peti-
tioners would direct His Excellency's at-
tention, the first is "the Harbour and
Coasts Ordinance 1866." The petiti-
oners find that in this no distinction is made
in favour of licensing passenger or provi-
sion junks, or as to their treatment when
entering and leaving the harbour. They
point out the difference between these and
trading junks; that they are in the habit of
constantly entering and leaving the port,
in many cases daily, and that the markets
of the Colony are entirely dependant on
these junks for their daily supplies of pro-
visions. They subjoin a list of the small
ports in the neighbourhood trading with
Hongkong, the number of junks engaged,
number of trips per month, and duration of

stay in the Colony, and point out that a
passenger's junk from Nantao for instance
would have to pay \$110 per annum for
the privilege of bringing supplies to the
Colony, while a junk plying between Kow-
loon city and the Colony would have to
pay fees amounting to \$293.75. Such an
impost is, in the opinion of the petitioners,
calculated to drive away a trade upon
which we are all almost wholly dependant
for the necessities of life; or at all events
to increase the cost of these necessities to
such an extent as to make it utterly im-
possible for the poorer classes to obtain
them.

The petitioners then draw attention to
the fact that at present time even the lar-
gest of the licensed passenger or provi-
sion junks pay only 10 dollars per an-
num to the Government; and submit, that,
the payment of double that amount, as
laid down in the Ordinance, is, of itself,
a very high tax, and they believe it is as
much as this class of vessels can possibly
afford to pay out of their small profits,
and that the payment of other fees in addi-
tion will be absolutely impracticable, se-
pecially, as they have likewise to pay taxes
and fees to their own Government at the
ports to which they belong or from
which they sail.

The next paragraph throws a curious
light upon the exactions of the local man-
daries on the mainland. The petitioners
submit that the clause requiring that the
license number of junks be painted in
black figures 20 inches in length, on a
white ground, on each bow—is very ob-
jectionable, as these figures being fixtures
will render junks liable to many exactions
from the officials of the Chinese ports
to which they belong, as they would
then be looked upon as foreign vessels,
and impediments and exactions of all kinds
would be felt by them at all the Chinese
ports to which they may have occasion to
resort. It is also stated that many of the
passenger or provision junks now trading
here take their departure from the Chi-
nese ports they do not daring to clear for
Hongkong, as it would subject them to
greater exactions than they already pay,
and in some cases they would be pre-
vented from leaving the port altogether.

The next "exception" is to the num-
ber of hours (18) fixed for giving notice of
intended departure. This they point out,
in the case of vessels leaving and re-
turning to port daily, would be imprac-
ticable. The amount of security required
for vessels (\$1,500) is stated to be twice
the value of the very best junks, and the
difficulty of obtaining this security will
prevent many, if not all, of the smaller
junks from continuing their employment.
The petitioners admit the propriety of the
scale of fees as regards licensed trading
or cargo junks, as well as in the case of
unlicensed junks without regard to the
frequency of their visits. They do not dis-
cover any clause in the ordinance exempting
fishing boats from the port fees, but
cannot believe it to be the intention of the
Government to exact from them the fees
mentioned. The result would be the im-
mediate departure of all fishing boats from
the Colony for neighbouring ports. The
next paragraph comments on the hard-
ship entailed upon the owner of a junk
by Section XIX and XX of the Ordinance,
as should the Captain lie employs
misbehave, the junk is liable to forfeiture.
An innocent man may thus be punished
for the neglect or misconduct "of a person
who may possibly be even unknown to him!"
The petitioners remonstrate strongly
against this provision of the Ordinance and
add that they feel satisfied that the facts
they thus point out will suffice to convince
His Excellency that some modification is
required in order to render the working of
this Ordinance un-oppressive to the honest
and innocent trader.

Having thus stated their objection to the
Harbour and Coast Ordinance the peti-
tioners proceed to deal with "the Victoria
Registration Ordinance 1866," which
"though well adapted to secure the health,
comfort, and security of the colonists, is in
some respects open to objections," which
objections they proceed to state. The first
is, that the landlord of a house, one floor
of which is perhaps let to some 10 persons,
is often unaware of the actual personality
of his lodgers. They are constantly chang-
ing, and to require him to report these
changes would in addition to being ex-
tremely difficult needlessly occupy much
of the "householder's" time and that of
the officers of the Registrar General's de-
partment. The difficulty would be greater
in the case of a landlord not living on the
premises. He frequently finds, on his
monthly visit to collect the rent, that new
occupants have taken the place of those
he last saw, by arrangement between them.
This is a matter of daily occurrence in the
house occupied by the poorer classes, and
to require a report in such cases, punishing
neglect by a fine, would be to entail great
hardship and vexation upon the land-
lord.

The chief objection is, however, against
Section XVIII, by which if the offender,
being only a casual resident, cannot be
found, the amount of the absent offender's
fine is made payable by the innocent
landlord, he being under such circum-
stances the "householder." The peti-
tioners conceive this enactment to be unrea-
sonably hard on an innocent man. They
have always heard it stated that it is a
common axiom amongst the British people
that it were better that nine guilty persons
should escape than that one innocent man
should be punished, and the above regula-
tion does not appear to them consistent with
the just principle involved in the above
good maxim. The remedy given by the
latter part of the Section to the landlord
would be utterly useless, as he would be
unable to recover the amount of such fine
from one who had already escaped from
justice, or, who if he were to return, it
would be necessary to sue for the amount
even if he were able to pay it.

Still more objectionable is said to be the
case where the guilty man being actually pre-
sent, and who upon conviction cannot or
will not, pay the fine inflicted on him is
allowed to go at large without any punish-
ment whatever, and the landlord who had
never heard anything of the offence being
committed, is called upon to pay the amount
of the fine! The petitioners beg to sub-
mit, that when this law becomes known in
the Colony it will amount to an inducement
to the lower classes to commit of-
fences under the Ordinance named, which
they may do with impunity, since whatever
may be the amount of the fine inflicted, all
they have to do is to express their inability
to pay it, in which case the Government
will call upon the landlord to do so. Be-
sides this the Petitioners fail to see why a
mortgagee in possession, who collects the
rents thereof to pay himself the interest on
the amount lent, should be deprived of the
same because some person living therein
may have committed an offence under cer-
tain specified Ordinances. It would be pos-
sible for the landlord or mortgagee to
maintain such a supervision over the im-
mates of his houses as to prevent the com-
mission of any of these offences, and this
oppressive law, if carried out, will cause
the value of landed property to decrease
most materially, especially since land-
lords are now called upon to pay the po-
lice, Lighting and Water Rates for their
houses, whether occupied or not. The Pe-
tioners would respectfully beg to be in-
formed whether in the case of a person
who, having become a householder and
having under Section VII, reported the
same to the Registrar General and re-
ceived from that officer a certificate en-
der Section IX, should remove from
such house and subsequently become house-
holder of another tenement, will be called
upon to obtain and pay for a new registra-
tion certificate.

The petitioners cannot conclude without
alluding to the repugnance which Euro-
peans have always expressed against the
just system of the Chinese officials, in ar-
resting and punishing the member of a
man's family who may have committed an
offence, and who has escaped capture. They
beg to submit that the confiscation
of a junk and her cargo for an offence
committed by the master, (he not being
owner), and the infliction of fines upon
the landlords of houses whose tenants
may have committed offences under cer-
tain specified Ordinances, appear to be
open to the same objection.

As regards the licensing of money chang-
ers the petitioners would beg to point out
the fact that all grocer's shops may be
looked upon in the light of money chang-
ers' shops; because the nature of their
business is such that all the money taken
by them each day is in copper cash, which
is exchanged by them for silver, in order
to enable them to make remittances to the
mainland for purchasing fresh stock—this
practice is the more necessary since the
Hongkong copper cash being only current
in the Colony, the grocers cannot send
this coin for the purchase of their supplies.
The same may be said of retail prepared
opium dealers, and it would be a great
hardship that they should be compelled to
apply for licenses to enable them to change
their cash.

The petitioners then offer some remarks
regarding Sections IX and X of the Or-
dinance with respect to the article of "con-
ditions." A large portion of Chinese "con-
ditions" if not looked upon by Europeans,
as actually "tainted," "adulterated" or
"unwholesome," is certainly considered
"noxious;" this is a well known fact,
and one commonly talked about by Europeans.
In all grocer's shops where these "con-
ditions" are sold by retail, and other places
where they are made, large quantities will
be found. These "conditions," though of-
fensive to the European taste and smell,
are not so to the Chinese, and are in daily
use amongst them, either as delicacies or
necessaries.—If informers are to be en-
titled to one-half of the fine inflicted on per-
sons convicted of this offence, grocers and
others will be subjected to continual an-
noyance, if not hardship and oppression,
by having their houses searched upon in-
formation given by some person anxious to
make gain, if by chance a conviction could
be obtained,—and further these "condi-
tions" are so "noxious" to Europeans, the
Shopkeeper may be fined for proffering
for sale an article said to be "noxious," but
to a Chinese, not only considered "whole-
some," but probably is in such state a ne-
cessary of life. The petitioners make no
objection whatever to the law taking its
course as regards "tainted," "adulterated,"
or "unwholesome" liquor, or meat, or provi-
sions, which is just and proper.

After the explanation contained in the
reply, which His Excellency condescended
to make to first petition, to the effect that
if native houses are kept clean and free
from smells that Chinese families will not
be troubled by visits from the Health Of-
ficer, they feel contented and satisfied that
no undue exercise of this power will be
made so as to cause alarm to their wives
and families.

With respect to Ordinance Number 9,
of 1866, the Petitioners have no remark
to make, except that as the object of it is
the prevention of the crime of piracy, and
the punishment of all persons in the Colo-
ny having any connection with pirates,
they fully concur in the great necessity
there exists for some severe law on the
subject, and they trust that the provisions
of this Ordinance will be attended with all
the success His Excellency hopes for from
them.

As regards the Stamp Act, the Petiti-
oners think it would be better to leave the
matter in the hands of the European com-
munity, who are more able to judge as to
the merits or demerits of the requirements
of that Ordinance, and to represent the
same to His Excellency than they are;
although they still think the imposition of
Stamp, the time taken up thereby, and
the attention and particularly required to
avoid incurring fines, will materially in-

terfere with, fetter, retard and otherwise
injure, the trade of the Colony.

The petitioners trust that His Excel-
lency will also give his best and favorable
consideration to the observations and re-
marks on some of the most objectionable
portions of these Ordinances, which they
have endeavoured to express in this peti-
tion.

The petition is dated the 2nd of Nov-
ember, 1866.

MEMORANDUM.

Government House, Hongkong, 12th No-
vember, 1866.

I have perused carefully the memorial
addressed to me on the 2nd instant, by a
numerous and respectable body of Chinese
residents—drawing my attention to several
provisions in the recent Ordinances which
they suggest may cause unnecessary hard-
ship.

The memorialists overlook the fact that
this Government has been driven reluc-
tantly to adopt stringent measures for
ascertaining the character of all native
vessels, by reason of the crimes and ro-
beries of the countrymen of the memora-
lists. There are higher considerations than
those of mere trade—and there are duties,
which this Government owes to civilisation
and humanity—which must be discharged,
whatever hardships those duties entail on
residents.

It is, however, gratifying to feel that,
fortunately, there is nothing irreconcilable
between the plain duty of this Government,
and the profitable pursuit of their ordinary
occupations by memorialists, or by the native
shipping, which usually frequents this harbor.

There is in fact no adequate reason for
most of the apprehensions entertained by
the memorialists, who, although they have
made themselves better acquainted than at
first with the Ordinances affecting shipping
and registration, have still fallen into many
errors.

Thus they have overlooked the fact, that
vessels which make many trips are those
which naturally have most chances of profit
—and although in the example, which they
give, \$110 might be a large sum to pay for
one or two trips—or even for twenty voy-
ages, it cannot appear a very large sum in
the case of 120 voyages—during the course
of which so many thousands of Dollars must
have been employed in the transactions
connected with those voyages, as to render
the \$110 trifling expense—especially as it
would be paid in small sums not amounting
to one Dollar a trip.

I am nevertheless glad to have it in my
power to terminate the misgivings of me-
morialists on that point, by informing them
of the intention of the Government to treat
with special indulgence every vessel ob-
taining a general annual trading license, in
consideration of the guarantee afforded by
the bond—required as a condition pre-
cedent to obtaining a license—for the gen-
eral good conduct of the vessel and all con-
nected with her.

I therefore mean to use the power (Sec-
tion 28) of lowering the fees leviable under
the Ordinance, whenever I have reason to
be satisfied with the general conduct of the
owners and Consignees of licensed vessels,
and when I am convinced that they are doing
their utmost to assist in carrying out the
law—and promoting the objects of recent
legislation.—In such cases I hope to di-
minish by one half or more, after the first
dozen trips, the amount of fees payable by
licensed junks.

In no case are these fees imposed through
desire of gain by this Government—but
simply because the audacious robberies
committed by Chinese vessels have made it
necessary to compel all vessels of that
nation visiting this harbor to report to,
and communicate frequently with, the
authorities. Now, if this has to be done
at all, the memorialists, as men of busi-
ness, must know that it cannot be accom-
plished so regularly by any other system
as by one of passes and clearances—because
the small payments required in each case
would be so small as to render them ac-
countable for money either received or paid,
and thereby ensure punctuality and exactitude in the conduct
and record of all proceedings.

Meantime, I would remind memorialists
that they are entirely mistaken in supposing
that a security of 1,500 dollars is required
to obtain a license. The Ordinance (Sec-
tion 26) only says that no bond for more
than 1,500 dollars shall be required as
security. Any less sum, when there is no
ground for suspicion—may be accepted.
Thus even so low a security as \$20 or \$50
might possibly suffice in some cases.

Memorialists are also in error in think-
ing that any higher payment than \$5 for
an annual fishing license, or 50 cents for a
monthly license, is leviable from more fish-
ing boats—whilst under Section XXIX a
license may be granted to every fishing
vessel, subject to such conditions and con-
veying such privileges as the harbor master
with approval of Governor may arrange.
Under that Section therefore a means is
afforded—when the Ordinance is in opera-
tion—of remedying every real hardship
that may be proved.

As for the penalties finally falling on the
vessel and cargo guilty of infringing the law
that is not an undue hardship,—because it
is easy to obey the law—if the intentions
of the owners and master of a vessel be honest.
There is also an appeal always to the Go-
vernment, and it is so improbable that an
officer of the British Government would exact
a penalty harshly or unjustly, that the
memorialists cannot be really alarmed at
the risk which any honest trader incurs
through that provision. If they still are
apprehensive they had better use addition-
al precautions when inquiring into the char-
acter of the masters and owners of the ves-
sel, and to assist in carrying out the law,
in consequence of the memorialists and the
inconvenience which the carriage of large
paid numbers on their vessels might oc-
casion in other Ports, are worthy of atten-
tion; and I shall revise this regulation if
on communicating with the Chinese authori-
ties, I find reason to do so. Nevertheless
it is evident that some external sign of
being licensed junks should be borne by
those vessels—and to be useful, that such
sign should be easily recognizable and diffi-
cult to obliterate.

Having thus disposed of the objections
urged by memorialists against the Harbor
and Coast Ordinance, I now proceed to
consider their objections to the Registration
Ordinance, and observe that the memora-
lists still show a very imperfect knowledge
of some of the topics to which they advert.
Thus when they say each householder is
obliged to furnish a list of his monthly
consumption, they represent that as being a
great hardship,—although every Househol-
der has a list for his own use, and though

if he cannot give complete information
about each monthly tenant, he can at least
state all he knows, and nothing more is re-
quired from him. If there be a difficulty
in doing this, it is a difficulty which he
must endeavour to overcome.

Memorialists also seek to convey an im-
pression that the Ordinance by imposing
eventually on the Householder the onus of
paying the fines of parties residing in his
house when guilty of a certain class of of-
fences, leaves him no remedy—whereas Sec-
tion XVII expressly enables him to recover
such fines from the real offenders. I dis-
cuss with the memorialists as to the hard-
ship of this legislation. It is partly born
from the spirit of many Chinese per-
sonal laws, and partly from the principle
of English law, which in some cases throws
on Counties and Districts the cost of dam-
age to personal property and unusual
charges for police occasioned by the mis-
conduct of individuals within such Counties
or Districts. Thus it imposes on each
householder or his agent merely the duty
of seeing that his tenants yield obedience
to certain laws of the country which shel-
ters and protects them. He can do this
much better than any paid officers of the
Executive, and if he does his best to assist
the Government in carrying out the law, he
may rely on it that the law will not deal
harshly with him.

It is moreover not true that the mere
impossibility of paying a fine will tempt
any, who can shift its payment on others,
to violate the law—because it is provided
that parties offending against the Ordinance
shall not merely be liable to fines, but
shall also, in default of payment, be liable
to imprisonment with hard labor.

Further, the arrest of a man's family in
China, in the case of the guilty member, is
not a parallel case with the householder's
payment in the first instance of a fine by
an absconding tenant—because whilst a
man's family can have no control over his
actions, and may be a thousand miles away
when he commits some offence—the house-
holder has from the first a general power of
selecting and removing his tenants, and
can at least endeavor, either personally
or through his agents, to have his houses
conducted in accordance with the require-
ments of the Law,—whilst he has opportu-
nities through himself or his agent of ascer-
taining the probable character of his ten-
ants. The British law therefore, unlike
the Chinese, only expects him to do what
he has opportunity and means of doing.

Finally, when we refer to the offences for
which householders are to be held respon-
sible, as appearance of various of unrespec-
table characters to the duty of house-
holders. Those Ordinances, Nos. 11 and 14
of 1844, No. 12 of 1857, and No. 7 of
1865, define the offences for which house-
holders will in future be ultimately respon-
sible, if committed on their premises.
Those offences consist in illegal sales of
spirits, prostitution and gambling. Every
householder, can if he chooses prevent all
these offences on his premises, and I hope
that all respectable Chinese residents will
earnestly support an enactment, which is
intended to check a guilty privacy as well
as culpable negligence on the part of house-
holders.

As there is no intention of declaring gro-
cers and opium dealers, as such, to be
money changers within the meaning of the
Ordinance, and as the usual Chinese "con-
ditions" alluded to by memorialists will
not be considered as evidence of unrespec-
table characters, it is unnecessary for me to add any obser-
vations in reply to the mistaken views of
memorialists on those subjects, who, I have
no doubt, will be glad to learn that they
have in so many points overrated the prob-
able obstruction to business which the
recent Ordinances may cause.

Their objections on the Piracy Court
Ordinance, and the Stamp Ordinance, re-
quire no comment.

In conclusion, I call special attention
to the fact that the peculiar habits of the
Chinese themselves, and the crimes of
their countrymen have necessitated the re-
cent legislation. I cannot therefore say
that I regret, as I would otherwise have
done, the additional duties now unavoid-
ably cast on Chinese residents. It clearly
was impossible to defer longer grappling
with the difficult questions raised by piracy
on the one hand, and the notoriously unclean
condition of a part of this town on the
other.

I shall however always endeavor to render
the working of necessary laws as little bur-
densome as possible. Nothing will more
assist me in doing so, than the aid, which
the respectable Chinese can themselves afford
by complying with countrymen with a desire
to make the administration of law easy,
and in time the penalties and provisions
found most vexatious, may be relaxed or
altogether discontinued.

RICHARD GRAVES MACDONNELL,
Governor.

THE CHINA TRADERS' INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE FOLLOWING IS THE REPORT OF THE
COMMITTEE TO THE FIRST ORDINARY
MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS, TO BE
HELD AT THE OFFICE OF THE GENERAL
AGENTS AT HONGKONG ON NOVEMBER
19TH, 1866.

The Committee have much satisfaction in
being able to meet the Shareholders with a
Report on the position of the Company, which
attained in its first year of working, which
will show its satisfactory establishment, its
extensive business connection, and its un-
doubted prosperity.

The Company was registered under the
Company's Ordinance of 1865, on the 12th
October 1865, its shares being all taken up,
and the first call of \$1000 per share having
been fully paid up. The amount of Premia
collected in Hongkong and China from the
1st of November 1865 to the 21st of October
1866, and the amount collected at the for-
eign Agencies, within that period, of which
the General Agents have received advice,
after deducting all sums paid as bonus and
commissions, and adding interest, amounts
to \$271,282.13. This result, must be
gratifying to the Shareholders as it proves
that the expectations upon which the Com-
pany was founded were well grounded.

Agencies have been established at Swa-
tara, Amoy, Poochow, Ningpo, Shanghai,
Chiofoo, Canton, Yokohama, Sunk, Manila,
Bangkok, Saigon, Singapore, Penang, Ran-
goun, Akyab, Bassein, Madras, Calcutta,
Bombay, London and New York. The
Committee hope that the increasing business
of the Company will enable them further
to extend its field of operations within the
judicious restrictions imposed by the Ar-
ticles of Association. The losses which have
been paid by the Company amount to
\$81,483.02 and there are further claims not
yet settled to the amount of \$41,712.98, (the
latter may however be considerably reduced).
The Committee have been fortunate in

securing the able assistance of Mr W. Kaye
and Mr A. Sassoon, as Auditors for the
year, who have examined the Accounts
which the Committee have now the pleasure
to submit for the consideration of the
Shareholders.

It will be seen from these Accounts an-
nexed, that after carrying forward to the
next year's Accounts \$24,000 for Premia
received in respect of risks taken before
October 21st; but not terminated, after
carrying \$41,712.98 to Suspense Account
to meet claims and losses put forward, and
after writing off a portion of the Preliminary
Expenses, there remains a balance to the
credit of profit and Loss Account, in respect
of transactions actually closed of \$118,000.

The Committee, after careful consid-
eration of the question, do not feel called
upon to advise the Shareholders to make
any reserve, or provision for unexpired
risks, which were taken before October 31st,
at they are of opinion that it will, at the
close of each year, be convenient, (and
consistent with the welfare and interests of the
Shareholders), to treat these unexpired
risks as if taken on the first day of each
new account; and beyond carrying the re-
spective premia for those risks forward to
the new Account, to treat any loss occurring
in respect of those risks, as being charge-
able to the year in which the loss is made
known.

The Committee, upon the assumption
that the Shareholders will adopt this as the
rule of appropriation of risks, in the Com-
pany, recommend that the sum of \$118,000
be declared available for distribution as
profits of the Company for the year.

The apportionment of this sum, if appro-
priated as being so distributable, will,
under the 132nd Clause of the Articles of
Association, be as follows:—the sum of
\$29,300, to be carried to the Reserve Fund
and invested by the Committee;—the sum
of \$29,000, to be divided *pro rata* among
contributing Shareholders, and the sum of
\$59,000, or \$295 per share to be paid to
Shareholders as General Dividend.

The absence of Mr. McClellan from
Hongkong, and the departure of Mr. Dea-
con

he had been told by a friend that bad dollars could be bought at that shop. He has remained in his house since Tuesday last. The first prisoner was sitting behind a counter, in the inner part of the shop. Witness cannot identify the other five prisoners.

His Worship remanded the case until Tuesday next, binding the witness over to two sureties of \$100 each to appear on that day.

THE COINERS.

The Tung Mun law gang were again brought up on remand.

Lee Ah soy being declared states he is a servant employed by Constable No. 22. Witness knows all the prisoners. He saw them in the shop four days ago. Witness's object in going there was to buy bad dollars. Witness saw all the prisoners in the shop except one. He gave a good dollar to the master of the shop, who has escaped, and he received six bad dollars in exchange. Witness identifies the six dollars in court. The prisoners were all engaged in shuffling dollars. Witness had previously received information that bad money could be purchased at the shop, but had never been there before. The master produced the dollars from a hole in the ground, which was covered over with a tile. The reason why witness did not appear here on Friday was because he had been threatened with ill-treatment if he gave further evidence against the prisoners. Lum Ah-seong accompanied witness to the door of the shop but he did not go in.

Prisoners asked some irrelevant question and were remanded until Tuesday next.

Monday, 19th November, 1866.

THE SEIZURE OF THE Aeon.

John Warwick, Captain of the ship *Aeon*, appeared before the bench charged with unlawful detention of Chinese. His Worship asked him name. He at first declined giving it until his lawyer came, but did so on a repetition of the request. Mr Caldwell entered the court and said that Mr Pollard would appear for the defendant. His Worship asked defendant of what country are you? Defendant replied—'I refuse to state until I see my lawyer.' His Worship said he would allow some time for Mr Pollard's appearance. Mr Deane explained that the charge in this case would be preferred against the captain only, as the officers must be supposed to have acted under his instructions.

Mr Pollard was sent for by Mr Caldwell, the time named by His Worship for proceeding with the case being one o'clock. At that hour the learned counsel not having arrived, His Worship addressing prisoner said—John Warwick, do you refuse to give me your nationality?

Prisoner: Yes, sir.

His Worship: Very well, I cannot compel you to give it, if you think it will do you any injury.

Mr Pollard here entered, and His Worship explained to the learned counsel what had taken place. Mr Pollard made no remark, and the case proceeded.

Mr Deane deposed—I am acting superintendent of police. From information received by me at quarter to 8 on Saturday night I made a communication to the Governor. Yesterday, about half past one P.M. I went on board H. M. S. *Salamis*. She proceeded out of the harbour, to where the defendant's ship was lying. I went on board of her and saw some of the royal navy sailors there, soon afterwards the *Salamis* took her tow, and anchored her off the *Princess Charlotte*. I went on board the ship again, and arrested the captain on a charge of falsely imprisoning certain Chinese in his vessel. At about 3 o'clock on that morning I found one Chinaman with these hand cuffs (produced) on his wrist. I took them off.

Mr Pollard—I do not want to ask any questions of the witness. If he had given the usual policeman's testimony, 'from information I received,' he would have saved time.

Francis Grant Suttie, commander of H. M. S. *Salamis* deposed—I received orders from the commander on Saturday evening.

Mr Pollard objected that it would be better if witness would state what he did, and never mind his orders.

Witness—I went to a place outside the Janina pass, and saw a vessel at anchor. (Witness marked the spot on a map as nearly as possible.) I did not go on board her.

By Mr Pollard—I was invited to go on board after the hawser was cast off, but I did not go. It was the *Opusson* gun boat that sent out the invitation.

It was stated in answer to the bench that the *Opusson* had left the harbour. Mr Pollard remarked that under the circumstances that was singular, for the evidence of the *Opusson's* captain would in five minutes relieve the captain from his present position.

His Worship suggested that the captain of the *Opusson* might be subpoenaed.

Mr Pollard said it would save time, if these men had been kidnapped, and brought from Macao against their will, gave instructions to the master to proceed into Hongkong, and said that he would send a steamer to tow him round, but that if there was wind enough, he must get up anchor, and come in. The agent came in to get legal advice as to what he should do, to get the men out of the vessel; and he was going to Macao to consult with the charterers, when he saw a gunboat along shore. It appeared that in the middle of the night, the gunboat went up, and the captain was asked, what was the matter on board, and was there any row? The captain replied—'there is no row on board.' He was asked what he was doing there. He shouted out that some of his men were not proper captives, and he was going in to Hongkong next morning.

It appeared that the gunboat stayed by her and afterwards, the *Salamis* came round and stayed by her until daylight. In compliance with the request of the officer of the *Salamis*, the anchor was got up, but the vessel drifted away while the hawser was being got on board. She was, however, in tow, when the agent

went on board, and he cast the hawser off. This was the case, and the whole reward the master of the vessel gets in diving from his course and coming in here to land a few coolies who objected to go on, was that he was charged with an offence. His object in coming here was to consult with the agent and communicate with the Russian Consul. With the misconception on the part of the Naval authorities, he (the learned counsel) had nothing to do; the charge had arisen through an impetuous superintendent of police.

His Worship observed that the superintendent of police (who was seated at His Worship's side) objected to the word 'impetuous.'

Mr Pollard: If I can prove what I have said, considering there is a Russian consul here, the idea of taking the captain and the whole of the crew into custody, without the slightest inquiry, was a most impetuous proceeding.

His Worship: I do not think so. Mr Deane has very important duties to perform.

Mr Pollard: But he must perform them with discretion.

His Worship: He did so in this case. He found a man on board in chains.

Mr Pollard: He might do so on board many other vessels without inferring false imprisonment. But here is a vessel, placed in charge of the naval authorities, and every single soul of the crew brought on shore and placed in goal.

The Superintendent: That is not true. The second mate and four men were left on board.

Mr Pollard said he was instructed that the evidence to be produced would prove that, there being some people on board who were not proper emigrants, the captain was bringing the vessel in here in consequence, when he was taken in charge.

The superintendent here said he desired to make a statement.

Mr Pollard: I am a counsel engaged in this case, and I object to Mr Deane being recognised in any other capacity than that of complainant.

His Worship expressed his opinion that it was Mr Deane's duty to board the ship under the circumstances, in British waters.

Mr Pollard: The prisoner does not deny that there were some men there against their will. Where is the act that he has done to bring before the Court? The bench will see the necessity of caution in this case.

His Worship: I went on board at Macao, in the harbour, for making a disturbance within the jurisdiction of Macao; and the bench cannot inquire into such imprisonment, under the Russian flag.

His Worship directed evidence to be called and a Chinaman, a strong healthy looking fellow, was placed in the box.

Mr Pollard: I object to evidence being taken as to anything done outside British waters.

His Worship: The offence may exist here although its inception was outside.

Mr Pollard: Suppose the man was brought here to be handed over to the proper authorities? The imprisonment may not have been false at Macao. I object to anything outside British waters.

His Worship directed the examination of witness to be proceeded with, and Son a Sik, being declared, said—I am a joss stick maker in the Shun district. I do not know the prisoner. I saw him on board the ship which came from Macao about the 10th inst. I went on board at Macao, October 10th. I know those handcuffs, they were put on me by some foreigners on leaving Macao. I was released from them the night before last; I do not know by whom. The handcuffs were put on after the anchor was lifted, because I refused to go with the ship. I did not wish to go on the ship. Some Chinese invited me to go on board at Macao.

Mr Pollard: I ask no questions. I do not deny that this man and several others were on board.

His Worship: Assuming that this man's evidence is uncontradicted, that he was placed on board the ship at Macao, and sailed against his will, that was false imprisonment, which did not cease when the vessel came within the waters of the colony.

Mr Pollard suggested that the commander of the *Salamis* was as much in fault for towing the ship in.

His Worship replied that the commander might have thought the ship to be in distress.

Mr Pollard: If the prisoner had any idea that he had men in false imprisonment, why did he come in here? That a man was placed in iron at Macao does not make false imprisonment here. He was a man who made a row at Macao, and he was put in iron there.

His Worship: You must prove why you put him in iron.

Kun-lo-Pat, another coolie from on board, was placed in the box. He declared—I do not know the prisoner. I came here in a ship. I saw prisoner on board. I was not put in iron. I have no charge against prisoner.

Mr Pollard (to the witness): This is one of the superintendent's usual man's nest.

Witness continued. Sometimes it was very hot when people were smoking in the hold; the prisoner would not let me go down to smoke about 8 in the evening.

His Worship—This man has signed the contract?

Mr Pollard:—Oh yes, and whether they had signed or not that I am instructed the master is assured that some of the men are not satisfied to go on, and that is why he came here to see the Russian Consul; and as I have said, this is his reward.

In answer to the bench the witness said it was against his consent that he had gone on board.

Mr Pollard remarked that the investigation now being conducted was much what it would have been before the Russian Consul. The learned counsel read an exhibit from the charter party to the effect that emigrants by the vessel were to be shipped without infringement of the Spanish, Portuguese, English, or Canton regulations; and the captain finding that he had men on board who did not answer to emigrants of that description, came in here. The charter parties have been sent for from Macao.

His Worship: Is the defendant willing to let the men go?

Mr Pollard: That is what he came here for, when he was dragged out of his ship. Why was he not summoned instead? His vessel was lying under the guns of the *Salamis*, where was the necessity for dragging him and his people out of the ship and putting them in goal?

His Worship: Mr Deane was acting under a sworn information.

Mr Pollard repeated that the defendant ought to have been summoned.

Another witness was called, and declared that he was a servant at Kowloon. He had been taken on board the ship at Macao.

cao against his will. Some Chinese took him there. He had not been ill-treated. He went down to the hold to drink and then got hogged.

Mr Pollard asked Captain Suttie to support him in the statement that Lieut. Mainwaring had said that the vessel had got up her anchor voluntarily.

Commander Suttie: Mainwaring told me that the captain told him, that he was going in. I sent on to say that I had orders to take him in tow, to assist him. He agreed to that, he got up his anchor himself, and up to a certain point, I was assisting him as a friend in bringing in his ship. I had orders from the Governor to bring him in any how, but he did not know that he was under no menace. As far as I know, it was a purely voluntary thing on his part to come in.

Mr Pollard remarked that so far as the naval officers were concerned they had to do only with the ship's papers and flag, and nothing to do with the coolies.

Commander Suttie: I acted entirely under orders. The owner threw away the hawser from the ship, and then I began to submerge.

His Worship: You say there will be an investigation, Mr Pollard?

Mr Pollard: Well, there may be if the matter is restored to its original position. The Russian consul would have been applied to. They do not wish to detain the men.

His Worship: I have little doubt as to what the Captain intended to do as you suppose, but I have got three witnesses who swear that they were on board against their will, in a vessel within the waters of the colony. Can you give me any evidence to upset that?

Mr Pollard: The evidence of Mr Nolan is that they wanted to avoid their contract (as we understood).

The Attorney General, who was engaged in the Criminal Sessions court, here entered an application for a remand, and after some conversation a remand was ordered until 11 A.M. on Wednesday, prisoner being liberated on his own recognizance in \$500.

Wednesday, 21st November, 1866.

THE ARREST OF THE "AEON."

This enquiry having been adjourned until to-day, John Warwick, the Master of the suspected vessel appeared in answer to his summons in handcuffs. He took the Attorney General appeared on the part of the Crown, with the Crown Solicitor. Mr Pollard, Q.C. instructed by Mr Caldwell, on behalf of the defendant, and Mr Barnard, instructed by Mr Sharp, represented the three coolies who gave evidence at the last examination before the Magistrate.

With regard to the action of the Superintendent of Police in the preliminary steps taken by the Police authorities, and the necessity of a remand, it is our duty to state, that no interference took place in the matter until the report of unity on board a vessel within the waters of Hongkong, found its way to the Central Police Station.

The Attorney General in a few remarks wished it to be understood, that having read carefully the depositions taken by the Magistrate, at the first examination of the matter, he inclined to look upon the matter as a simple case of false imprisonment, and that the evidence which had since been voluntarily given by six or seven of the coolies on board the suspected vessel, wherein they stated that they had been kidnapped (some it will hardly be believed in this colony), this Government or any other Government, *deus* to be hoped, could not fold their arms and remain silent, after such revelations had been brought to their notice. The Attorney General presented by third officer, it is our duty to state, that no interference took place in the matter until the report of unity on board a vessel within the waters of Hongkong, found its way to the Central Police Station.

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